



The Monthly
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Lewis and Clark County
Green Team

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County Conservation News

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Carpool Parking Spots-No More



The County Green Team continues to strive to provide employees with ideas to conserve energy, promote recycling, and influence alternative transportation methods. Approximately 1 year ago, the Green Team initiated and implemented the creation of 2 carpool parking locations within the City/County Building employee parking lot.

While our intent was to promote an incentive for alternative transportation by carpooling, it has been apparent that only a few groups participated in regularly utilizing these locations. On any given day, these locations were either empty or often utilized by vehicles that had not carpoled. Many carpool enforcement ideas had been discussed, but quietly disregarded.

During the August meeting of the Green Team, members decided that it was in the best interest of persons using the parking lot to begin the process of eliminating the carpool parking signs and locations.

The Green Team will continue its efforts to promote alternative transportation methods, and we appreciate those people who genuinely and routinely utilize these methods. We appreciate your support, and we will make our best effort to keep you posted as to the progress of removing these signs/locations.

If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact any member of the Green Team. Thank you.

Helena's Bikeability Audit

On August 10, Helena held its first ever Community Bicycling Workshop and Audit. Mighk Wilson and Keri Caffrey, from Orlando, Florida conducted a group ride around the streets of Helena in the morning and discussed what positive attributes the city has – a good street grid system, relatively slow traffic speeds on most streets, courteous automobile drivers and relatively short distances to most major destinations.

During an evening presentation, Mighk gave some suggestions to help make Helena a more bike friendly city. First and foremost is to educate cyclists on how to operate safely and predictably on the streets. Mighk and Keri are the co-creators of a bicycling safety education course called Cycling Savvy. They believe that automobile operators become more aware

and drive more safely around cyclists if they are aware of how the cyclist is going to ride. Secondly, Helena could benefit from creating bicycle boulevards on the streets that run parallel to major roadways. A bicycle boulevard is a street that caters to bicycle through traffic, does not elimi-

nate vehicular use but is not a through street for cars.

The takeaway lessons from the group ride and the public presentation is that bicycles and automobiles can happily co-exist on streets and that courtesy for all users goes a long way to making a town bike friendly.



Riders, including Mighk Wilson, Laura Erikson and Commissioner Andy Hunthausen prepare to ride thorough Helena as part of the Bicycling Workshop

The Lewis and Clark County

Green Team

The Green Team was established in April, 2010. It is comprised of 10 Lewis and Clark County employees. Their mission is to promote sustainability and stewardship of environmental resources in daily government practices to save money and reduce the environmental impacts of county operations.